

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USDEL MBFR VIEWWA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

.USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSANVVEUR

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSAFE

S E C R E T USNATO 3363

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, FR

SUBJECT: GISCARD'S DEFENSE POLICY AFTER ONE YEAR

REF: PARIS 15544

1. WE READ WITH INTEREST AMEMBASSY PARIS' LUCID ANALYSIS OF GISCARD'S DEFENSE POLICY AND AGREE THAT THE ORIENTATION OF FRENCH POLICY MAY NOW BE SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC TO OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGES THAT COULD SERVE THE INTERESTS OF NATO, THE U.S. AND FRANCE.

2. WHILE WE WOULD AGREE, ALSO, THAT THE TIME IS RIPE FOR SERIOUS EXPLORATION OF THE "PARAMETERS OF COMMUNALITY AND COOPERATION"

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THAT MAY BE OPEN TO US IN PARIS, WE WOULD CAUTION AGAINST PLACING OURSELVES IN A DEMANDEUR POSITION FOR SOMETHING WHICH GISCARD IS NOT NOW IN A POSITION TO DELIVER, I.E. FRENCH MILITARY REINTERGRATION INTO THE ALLIANCE. LIKEWISE, WE WOULD COUNSEL AGAINST

TRYING TO STIMULATE GISCARD TO STEP UP THE PACE BY OFFERING FRANCE A "PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP" IN THE MILITARY FIELD. TO DO SO WOULD RISK SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS WITH OTHER ALLIES, AND WOULD BE CONTRARY TO PRESIDENT FORD'S REMARKS AT THE BRUSSELS SUMMIT ABOUT UNQUALIFIED PARTICIPAION IN THE ALLIANCE.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT GIDCARD NOT DOUBT THAT (A) THE NEW ORIENTATION HE HAS GIVEN FRENCH DEFENSE IS VIEWED BY THE US AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, AND (B) WE INTEND TO ASSURE FRANCE REMAINS FULLY AWARE OF THE COMPLETE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASED COOPERATION. IN ACHIEVING THE LATTER, WE RECOMMEND ACCENTUATING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR MULTILATERAL RATHER THAN FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION. IN SUM, WHILE WE ESTIMATE WE CANNOT FORCE THE PACE, WE BELIEVE THE US SHOULD TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT GISCARD AND THOSE AROUND HIM KNOW THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE SO THAT AS THE SITUATION PERMITS HE CAN MAKE THE APPROPRIATE MOVES.
STREATOR

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To: STATE
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